

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 AID-05 /029 W

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R 291030Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3998

INFO /CINCPAC HONOLULU

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 27088

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TH

SUBJECT: BUDGET BILL PASSES THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SUMMARY: BUDGET BILL PASSES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE
ON SEPTEMBER 29. FINANCE UNDER SECRETARY TO HEAD
THAI DELEGATION TO OCTOBER 4 WORLD BANK/IMF MEETING
IN MANILA. END SUMMARY.

1. AS EXPECTED, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PASSED
THE FY-77 BUDGET BILL ON THE SECOND AND THIRD READINGS
IN THE WEE HOURS OF THE MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 29.
THE VOTE WAS 178 TO 31. ONLY INSIGNIFICANT CHANGES
WERE MADE IN THE BILL AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BUDGET
SCRUTINIZING COMMITTEE. THE COMMITTEE HAD MADE
NO CHANGES IN THE OVERALL AMOUNT OF THE NEW BUDGET
(68.8 BILLION BAHT) BUT HAD REALLOCATED ABOUT
500 MILLION BAHT AMONG THE MINISTRIES WITHOUT
CUTTING ANY MINISTRY OR AGENCY BUDGET SIGNIFICANTLY.

2. COMMENT: PARTY DISCIPLINE HELD FOR THE VOTE,
DESPITE DISTRACTIONS OF PAST FEW WEEKS. A RATHER
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LARGER PROPORTION OF OPPOSITION MEMBERS WERE

ABSENT FOR THE VOTE THAN THE PROPORTION OF GOVERN-
MENT MP'S ABSENT, BUT HIS IS LARGELY ATTRIBUTABLE
TO BETTER DISCIPLINE IN GOVERNMENT COALITION PARTIES.
WITH BUDGET PASSED, THE MP'S CAN NOW TURN THEIR FULL
ATTENTION TO THE MANEUVERINGS OVER THE MAKEUP OF
THE NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT AND FOR CABINET
POSITIONS AMONG THE LEADERS OF THE PARTIES INVOLVED.
THIS APPEARS TO BE MAIN REASON UNDER-SECRETARY
OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE, AMNUAI WIRAWAN,
WILL HEAD THE THAI DELEGATION TO THE WORLD
BANK/IMF MEETING WHICH BEGINS ON OCTOBER 4 IN
MANILA. BOTH FINANCE MINISTER SAWET PIAMPHONG-
SAN (A LEADER OF THE DEMOCRAT PARTY) AND DEPUTY
FINANCE MINISTER THINNAKON PHANKDRAWI (A LEADER
IN THE THAI NATION PARTY) REMAIN IN BANGKOK, PRE-
SUMABLY TO PROTECT THEIR PARTY AND PERSONAL POLITICAL
INTERESTS.
BURKE

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